



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2005

No. 148

## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who reigns forever, You are a shelter for the oppressed and a refuge in times of trouble. Give our Nation the shield of Your favor that it may bless our world. Guide our Nation's legislative branch with wisdom, integrity, and unity. Strengthen the executive and judicial branches that they will serve Your purposes. Infuse each citizen with a desire to walk on the right road in order to honor You and serve this land we love.

Bless us all with strength of will, steadiness of purpose, and power to persevere. Remind us that it is better to attempt and fail in some great thing, rather than not to try at all. Lord, teach us to number our days that we may have hearts of wisdom. We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWNBACK led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I Pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, November 9, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWNBACK thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today we are going to begin with a 1-hour period for morning business, and then we will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. We made good progress on that measure yesterday by disposing of a very large number of amendments. Today, we hope to work through the remaining amendments, and it is possible that we could finish the bill this evening. The chairman and ranking member are expected to line up additional rollcall votes throughout today, and we will alert Senators as those votes are scheduled.

The majority leader has mentioned several appropriations conference reports that are available or soon will be available. We expect to consider the foreign operations conference report today or tomorrow and will vote on the remaining bills as we can clear them for action in the Senate.

Having said that, Mr. President, we look forward to further progress on the Defense authorization bill during the day.

I yield the floor.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 1 hour, with the first half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### MINIMIZING DAMAGE FROM STORMS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to spend a few minutes this morning speaking about a subject that is extremely important to the State I represent, the State of Louisiana, and to the gulf coast and also to call attention to a small but important victory we achieved this week that I hope will signal a turning or a course correction that Congress should take to help prevent the destruction we have seen on the gulf coast in the last several weeks.

Mr. President, you are from Kansas, and you know the power of tornadoes and Mother Nature. There is not anything we can do to prevent the fury of nature, but we can minimize the damage. We most certainly can use our intelligence that God has given us and our talent that God has given us and the wisdom that He gives us to make wise investments and smart choices and try to set priorities that help us make good choices for the people we represent so that we can minimize their pain and their suffering and we

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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